

What is the Voluntary Placement Program?

A program for children or youth under 18 who may, in certain circumstances, be in voluntary placement outside of the home. Their participation in this program is due solely to their disability. The Division of Developmental Disabilities and the child’s parent or guardian must be in agreement that placement outside of the home is in the best interest of the child.

What is foster care?

Foster care is where the care of the child is provided in the home of a person who is licensed by the Department of Social and Health Services-Division of Licensed Resources, to provide care for a child in their home.

What is shared parenting?

Shared parenting is the term used when parents or guardians and foster parents are working together to parent a child in a way that is in the best interest of the child. Parents or legal guardians retain custody of their child and share major decisions with the daily caregiver, the foster parent.

What will I have to do?

Complete foster parent training and become licensed. Work with the DDD social worker. Be willing to work cooperatively with the child’s parents/guardian.

How do I qualify?

Foster Parent Requirements

Foster Parents must be licensed by the State of Washington, Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Licensed Resources.

Licensing includes, but is not limited to completing the following:

- First Aid/CPR training (Resources may be available for HIV/AIDS training)
- *Pre-Service training (12 hours)
- Home study
- Physical study of home
- Criminal history check
- Calling the number listed in your region

* Training is provided by the State of Washington

Questions asked most often.

Do I have to own my own home?

No; you may rent a house or apartment and still be a foster parent.

Can I work outside my home?

Yes; you can be employed outside your home because services for the youth can be arranged during the day. Some youth may require full-time parenting.

Can I get training to work with a child or youth with a disability?

Yes; training can be arranged and provided for to meet the needs of foster parenting a child in your care.

Can I get respite care for the child or youth in my care?

Yes; respite care can be arranged for with a licensed respite care provider. There is flexibility. Respite care providers may come to your home or in another person’s home.

Will I be reimbursed for providing foster care?

Reimbursement includes a minimum rate for basic foster care. Additional funds depend on the need of the child or youth.

Nondiscrimination. It is the policy of the Department of Social and Health Services that no person shall be subjected to discrimination in this agency or its contractors because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, creed, marital status, disabled or Vietnam Era Veteran status, or the presence of any physical, mental, or sensory handicap.

Where do I call

Region 1

Families for Kids/Recruitment and Retention
509-747-8224
DDD Social Work Supervisor
509-456-5051/1-800-462-9624
TTY 509-456-5050

Region 2

Families for Kids/Recruitment and Retention
509-735-6446
DDD Social Work Supervisor
509-454-4307/1-800-822-7840
TTY 509-454-4234

Region 3

Families for Kids/Recruitment and Retention
425-672-6009
DDD Social Work Supervisor
425-339-5076/1-800-788-2053
TTY 425-339-4850

Region 4

Families for Kids/Recruitment and Retention
206-694-5700
DDD Social Work Supervisor
206-706-3835/1-800-314-3296
TTY 206-720-3325

Region 5

Families for Kids/Recruitment and Retention
253-272-8433
DDD Social Work Supervisor
253-593-2819/1-800-248-0949
TTY 253-572-7381

Region 6

Families for Kids/Recruitment and Retention
360-423-8542
DDD Social Work Supervisor:
360-586-5728/1-800-339-8227
TTY 360-586-4719

Statewide phone number for anyone interested in foster care:

1-888-794-1794

Voluntary Placement Foster Care Program

who
what
where
how?



Division of Developmental Disabilities

*Washington State
Department of Social and Health Services*

Who are we looking for?

Foster care providers. People who want to share their home with a child with a disability. People who want to help the child's family with the needs of parenting. People who are families of two, or single and who complete the foster parent licensing requirements.

People who want to care for children with:

- Physical challenges
- Mental challenges
- Medically intensive issues
- Behavioral challenges

All children in voluntary placement are eligible for services through the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

What is DDD?

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is part of the Department of Social and Health Services. DDD assists individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to obtain services and supports based on individual preferences, capabilities, and needs, and which promote everyday activities, routines, and relationships common to most citizens.

DDD uses state and federal funds to provide or purchase supports and services for eligible persons and their families. Resources are limited and needed services may not always be available. Services vary from region to region.

*Thank you for
your interest
in becoming
a foster parent!*